IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Vacuum~~ A vacuum vaporization equipment for metallizing a strip substrate, comprising:

- a plurality of vaporization sources ~~which are~~, each of said vaporization sources being heated and continuously fed with a metal which is liquefied and vaporized by each of said vaporization sources respectively, each of said vaporization sources having a body extending along a main longitudinal direction and including a first surface means and a second surface means spaced apart from said first surface means, each of said surface means provided for enhancing the adhesion of molten metal in a location;

-a feeding means for feeding said substrate over said sources along a feed direction[[,]];

-a continuous delivery means for the delivery of metal wire to said sources, wherein each of said sources ~~is designed to form~~ holds at least two pools of molten metal, each pool ~~on the surface~~ being maintained separate from the other pool by each said surface means thereof, aligned along said longitudinal direction , and wherein each of said two pools is fed by a corresponding metal wire continuously delivered by said corresponding continuous delivery means.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of said sources is provided with at least~~ first and second surface means are defined as two cavities which are aligned along said longitudinal direction, said cavities defining areas for the formation of said pools of molten metal.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 2, wherein [[the]] said two cavities of each source have a rectangular shape in plan view, said rectangular shape [[which]] is elongated along said longitudinal direction.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 1, , wherein [[the]] said vaporization sources are made of an electrically conducting material and are heated by Joule effect as a result of the passage of current.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 2, wherein [[the]] said vaporization sources are made of an electrically conducting material and are heated by the Joule effect as a result of the passage of current.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 3, wherein [[the]] said vaporization sources are made of an electrically conducting material and are heated by the Joule effect as a result of the passage of current.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 1, wherein each of said ~~sources has at least two zones with~~ surface means includes a respective surface superficial depression so as to form a respective pool of molten metal.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 7, wherein each

of said surface depressions is formed by a plurality of superficial incision lines.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 1, wherein each of said ~~sources has at least two zones for the formation of pools of liquid metal, each~~ surface zone [[being]] is defined in the region of a plurality of superficially processed lines.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 9, wherein said superficially processed lines are superficial incision lines.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 7, wherein each of said superficial depressions is formed by a single lowered surface portion of said source.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 9, wherein said superficially processed lines alter the superficial wettability of the surface of [[the]] said source in [[the]] said zones where [[said]] at least two pools ~~must be~~ are formed.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 10, wherein said superficial incision lines are laser incision lines.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 1, wherein

said vaporization sources are alongside each other in an alignment transverse to the direction in which [[the]] said substrate is fed.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 14, wherein ~~the individual~~ said vaporization sources are offset and staggered with respect to each other in an alignment transverse to [[along]] the direction in which [[the]] said substrate is fed.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ The equipment according to claim 1, wherein said sources are aligned with their longitudinal direction parallel to said feed direction of said substrate.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ A source for the vaporization of a metal under vacuum comprising:

a body with an upper surface, said body being elongated in a longitudinal direction along a direction parallel with respect to an advancement direction of a substrate, and said upper surface ~~being treated to form~~ containing at least two pools of molten metal, said body including a first surface means and a second surface means spaced apart from said first surface means, each of said surface means provided for enhancing the adhesion of molten metal in a location and retaining each pool separate from the other pool thereon.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 17, wherein said upper

surface has a pair of cavities defining said pair of surface zones alongside each other in [[the]] said longitudinal direction to form two wells of molten metal.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ A source for the vaporization of a metal under vacuum comprising an electrically conducting body which is elongated in a longitudinal direction along a direction parallel with respect to an advancement direction of a substrate, said body forming a continuous boat or bar with two opposite ends, wherein an upper surface of said boat or bar ~~is treated to form~~ holds at least two pools of molten metal, and said upper surface includes a first surface means and a second surface means spaced apart from said first surface means, each of said surface means provided for enhancing the adhesion of molten metal on a location and retaining each pool separate from the other pool thereon.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 19, wherein a pair of cavities are provided on said surface, arranged alongside each other in said longitudinal direction to form two wells of molten metal.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 20, wherein said cavities have a rectangular shape in a plan view.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 20, wherein said cavities have substantially flat bottoms.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 19, which is made of an electrically conducting material which is heated by the direct passage of current.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 19, wherein said ~~upper surface is provided with~~ two surface zones [[for]] form[[ing]] said two pools of molten metal, each said surface zone being defined in [[the]] a region of a plurality of superficially processed lines.

25. (Currently Amended) Source The source according to claim 24, wherein said superficially processed lines are superficial incision lines.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 24, wherein said superficially processed lines alter the superficial wettability of the surface of [[the]] said source in [[the]] said surface zones where said at least two pools ~~must be~~ are formed.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Source~~ The source according to claim 25, wherein said superficial incision lines are laser incision lines.

28. (Currently Amended) A vacuum vaporization plant for the metallization of a web-like substrate, the vaporization plant comprising:

- a plurality of vaporization sources, each of said vaporization sources supplied with

a metal wire which is liquefied and vaporized by said vaporization sources, each of said vaporization sources having a body elongated in a respective main longitudinal direction and including a first surface means and a second surface means spaced apart from said first surface means, each of said surface means provided for enhancing the adhesion of molten metal in a location;

- a feeding means for feeding said substrate above said sources, in a feeding direction parallel to said longitudinal direction, said vaporization sources being arranged alongside each other in an alignment substantially perpendicular to said feeding direction;

- a continuous supplying means for supplying a respective said metal wire to each of said sources;

- a supporting means for supporting and heating said sources[[;]], wherein each of said sources ~~is suitable for forming thereon~~ holds at least two pools of molten metal, each pool being maintained separate from the other pool by said surface means, wherein each of said pools of molten metal is fed continuously with [[a]] said respective metal wire supplied by a respective supplying means and wherein said sources are arranged with their main longitudinal direction inclined with respect to [[the]] said direction of feeding of [[the]] said substrate at an angle other than 0° and 90°.

29. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to Claim 28, wherein said at least two pools of each source are aligned with each other approximately in [[the]] said main longitudinal direction of [[the]] said sources ~~itself~~.

30. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to Claim 28, wherein [[the]] said angle between [[the]] said main longitudinal direction of each source and [[the]] said direction of feeding of [[the]] said substrate is such as to position mutually [[the]] said pools of ~~liquid~~ molten metal of adjacent sources so that they are at least partially staggered in the direction of said alignment, substantially perpendicular to [[the]] said direction of feeding of [[the]] said substrate.

31. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to Claim 28, wherein each of said ~~sources has at least two~~ zones [[with]] include a respective surface superficial depression so as to form a respective pool of molten metal.

32. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to Claim 31, wherein each of said surface depressions is formed by a plurality of superficial incision lines.

33. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to Claim 28, wherein each of said ~~sources has at least~~ two zones provides for the formation of pools of liquid metal, each zone being defined in [[the]] a region of a plurality of superficially processed lines.

34. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to Claim 33, wherein said superficially processed lines are superficial incision lines.

35. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to Claim 31, wherein each of said superficial depressions is formed by a single lowered surface portion of said source.

36. (Currently Amended) [[Plant]] The plant according to claim 28, wherein [[the]] said angle between [[the]] said main longitudinal direction of [[the]] said sources and [[the]] said direction of feeding of [[the]] said substrate is between 15° and 60° ~~and preferably between 20° and 55° and even more preferably between 25° and 45°~~.

37 (New) The plant according to claim 28, wherein said angle between said main longitudinal direction of said sources and said direction of feeding of said substrate is between 20° and 55°.

38 (New) The plant according to claim 28, wherein said angle between said main longitudinal direction of said sources and said direction of feeding of said substrate is between 25° and 45°.